

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 08294 01 OF 02 211541Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 IO-14 /119 W

----- 106813

O 211445Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3470

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

DIA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 8294

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT HOUSE SPOKESMAN ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S  
RESIGNATION

REF: A. BANGKOK 8236 B. BANGKOK 8264 C. BANGKOK 8288

NITSAI WETCHACHIWA, SPOKESMAN FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HELD  
A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 21. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL  
USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S  
RESIGNATION.

QUOTE NISSAI:

I HAVE ONLY ONE STATEMENT TO MAKE. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS  
RESIGNED AND HE HAS SUBMITTED HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION TO HIS  
MAJESTY THE KING ALREADY. HIS RESIGNATION WILL COME INTO EFFECT  
AS FROM TOMORROW. THE REASON GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER FOR  
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 08294 01 OF 02 211541Z

HIS RESIGNATION IS THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS ARRANGED FOR

THE CONSTITUTION TO BE DRAFTED AND THE CONSTITUTION BILL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ALREADY WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT PLEDGED TO THE PEOPLE, AND IT HAS ENDEAVORED TO THE UTMOST OF ITS ABILITY TO RESTORE PEACE AND ORDER TO OUR COUNTRY THROUGHOUT THE PAST. IN ADDITION, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS PERFORMED ITS OFFICIAL DUTIES IN A CREATIVE MANNER AND IT HAS REMEDIED PROBLEMS FACED BY THE STATE, IN REGARD TO ECONOMY, POLITICS, AND ADMINISTRATION, TO THE UTMOST OF ITS CAPABILITY. IN SPITE OF THIS, THERE ARE SOME CABINET MINISTERS IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO RESIGN, DUE TO CRITICISM BEING EXPRESSED STATING THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF WORK UNDER THE POLICY OF CABINET MINISTERS HAS OBTAINED RESULTS THAT DO NOT PLEASE THE PEOPLE. FURTHERMORE, THERE HAVE BEEN DEMANDS IN GENERAL FOR THE CABINET TO BE REORGANIZED. THE PRIME MINISTER CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS ENDEAVORED TO PERFORM HIS DUTIES TO THE UTMOST OF HIS ABILITY AND CAPABILITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS RESPONSIBILITIES, WHICH HE CONSIDERS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND HAVE COME TO AN END, THEREFORE HE HAS CONSIDERED THAT HE SHOULD SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING. THE RESIGNATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER WILL RESULT IN THE DUTIES OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT COMING TO AN END. HAS ANYBODY ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS SUBJECT?

REPORTER: HOW MANY CABINET MINISTERS INTENDED TO RESIGN?

NISSAI: I CANNOT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION YET.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THEY SAID THEY WOULD RESIGN BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER?

NISSAI: NO. SOME PERSONS EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO RESIGN TO THE PRIME MINISTER IN PRIVATE AND PERSONAL TALKS WITH HIM. WHEN THE CABINET MEETING STARTED TODAY, THE PRIME MINISTER MADE A STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT AT ONCE.

REPORTER: WHEN DID THE MEETING START?

NISSAI: IT STARTED AT 10:00 A.M.

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 08294 01 OF 02 211541Z

REPORTER: HOW MANY PERSONS ATTENDED THE MEETING?

NISSAI: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, WHO ARE ABROAD.

REPORTER: WHO WILL BE PRIME MINISTER REPLACING KHUN SANYA?

NISSAI: SINCE THIS IS NOT SPECIFIED IN THE PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO USE ARTICLE 22 OF THE PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION. IN OTHER WORDS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS IN OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WE WILL HAVE TO STUDY THE LAST CONSTITUTION. SECTION 154 OF THE 1968 CONSTITUTION SPECIFIES CLEARLY THAT WHEN THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE CABINET IS ENDED IT WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL THERE IS A NEW CABINET TO REPLACE IT.

REPORT: WHAT DOES ARTICLE 22 STATE?

NISSAI: ARTICLE 22 OF THE PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION STATES THAT SHOULD NO REQUIRED SPECIFICATION BE FOUND IN THIS PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION, THEN TO ADHERE TO TRADITIONS IN OUR COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE STUDIED THE LAST CONSTITUTION, AND SECTION 143 IN THE 1968 CONSTITUTION SPECIFIES CLEARLY THAT THE CABINET WHOSE TERM OF OFFICE IS ENDED MUST REMAIN IN THAT POSITION UNTIL THERE IS A NEW CABINET TO REPLACE IT.

REPORTER: SECTION 143?

NISSAI: YES, IF I DO NOT REMEMBER WRONGLY. PLEASE CHECK UP ON IT.

REPORTER: WHEN WAS THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION SUBMITTED TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING?

NISSAI: AT MIDDAY.

REPORTER: DIDN'T HE GO HIMSELF?

NISSAI: HE DID NOT GO HIMSELF. HE IS STILL HERE.  
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PAGE 04 BANGKO 08294 01 OF 02 211541Z

REPORTER: WHO WENT?

NISSAI: THE OFFICIAL HOSE DUTY IT IS.

REPORTER: WHEN DID THE CABINET MEETING END?

NISSAI: ABOUT 13/30 P.M.

REPORTER: WHY DID DISCUSSIONS HAVE TO TAKE SUCH A LONG TIME?

NISSAI: THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED ABOUT ONE HOUR. DISCUSSIONS TOOK SOME TIME BECAUSE IT WAS NECESSARY TO DISCUSS WORK WHICH IS THE DUTY OF THE CABINET. WORK IN THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HAD TO BE DISCUSSED ALSO, SUCH AS WHAT

ACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN REGARD TO BILLS INTRODUCED,  
AND AFTER RESIGNATION WHEN PERFORMING DUTIES AS A CARETAKER  
GOVERNMENT TEMPORARILY THAT ITS ROLE MUST BE IN REGARD TO  
ADMINISTRATION ONLY, NOT CONCERNING POLICY.

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 08294 02 OF 02 211610Z

43

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AMCONSUL UDORN

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DIA

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 8294

REPORTER: WHO WILL BE SLECTED TO BE THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER?

NISSAI: THAT QUESTION CANNOT BE ASKED HERE. IT MUST BE  
ASKED OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

REPORTER: IN THE RESIGNATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER, WAS ANY  
SUGGESTION MADE REGARDING THE PERSON TO BE APPOINTED TO  
REPLACE HIM?

NISSAI: NO SUGGESTION WAS MADE AT ALL.

REPORTER: WHERE IS THE PRIME MINISTER AT PRESENT?

NISSAI: HERE IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

REPORTER: HOW LONG WILL IT BE A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT?

NISSAI: NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE SUBJECT. I DON'T  
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 08294 02 OF 02 211610Z

THINK IT WILL BE LONG. NOW THAT A LETTER OF RESIGNATION  
HAS BEEN SUBMITTED, EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON HIS MAJESTY.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE ABOUT A WEEK?

NISSAI: I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE MORE THAN A WEEK, BUT  
THIS IS MY PERSONAL VIEW.

REPORTER: DID THE PRIME MINISTER INFORM THE CABINET ABOUT  
THE AUDIENCE GRANTED HIM BY HIS MAJESTY?

NISSAI: NO, BECAUSE HE RELATED IT IN FULL DETAIL IN THE  
NOTE HE SENT TO EVERY CABINET MINISTER BEFOREHAND, AS HAS  
BEEN REPORTED BY SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS ALREADY.

REPORTER: IN ADDITION TO HIS RESIGNATION, WHAT OTHER SUBJECT  
DID THE PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS?

NISSAI: ANOTHER SUBJECT CONCERNED DR. SAK, BECAUSE  
A DECISION HAS REACHED AT THE CABINET MEETING LAST WEEK TO  
SUBMIT A REQUEST TO HIS MAJESTY FOR A ROYAL PROCLAMATION  
APPOINTING DR. SAK AS RECTOR OF RAMKHAMHAENG UNIVERSITY. BUT  
DURING THE PAST WEEK THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED MANY  
APPEALS AND PROTESTS FROM VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS REGARDING THE  
APPOINTMENT OF DR. SAK SUCH AS FROM STUDENT GROUPS, FROM  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, FROM MANY SOURCES.

REPORTER: WILL THE RESIGNATION RESULT IN THE NATIONAL  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BEING DISSOLVED?

NISSAI: WHY SHOULD IT BE DISSOLVED? IN THE FORMER DISSOLUTION  
OF PARLIAMENT, THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT RESIGN. SO FAR AS MY  
UNDERSTANDING IS CONCERNED, IT MAY CONTINUE TO EXIST OR IT  
MAY NOT.

REPORTER: WITH THAT UNDERSTANDING, EITHER WAY?

NISSAI: WHO WILL DISSOLVE IT? THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT  
EXIST.

REPORTER: WHY DIDN'T THE PRIME MINISTER GO TO SUBMIT HIS  
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PAGE 03 BANGKO 08294 02 OF 02 211610Z

RESIGNATION IN PERSON TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING?

NISSAI: THERE'S NO QUESTION AS TO SUBMITTING IT IN PERSON.

REPORTER: DID THE PRIME MINISTER MAKE HIS INTENTION KNOWN BEFORE ENTERING THE CABINET MEETING?

NISSAI: YES, IT WAS THE FIRST THING HE BROUGHT INTO THE DISCUSSION, AND NOTHING ELSE.

REPORTER: WHAT DID THE CABINET SAY?

NISSAI: NONE OF THEM SAID ANYTHING. ALL AGREED UNANIMOUSLY, EVERYONE HAD CHEERFUL AND SILING FACES.

REPORTER: WHO DRAFTED THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION TO BE SUBMITTED HIS MAJESTY THE KING?

NISSAI: THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF. RESIGNING IS NO PROBLEM. RESIGNATION IS RESIGNATION. BUT HERE THOUGHT IS TO BE GIVEN TO WORK LEFT UNDONE, FOR INSTANCE, SOME DRAFT BILLS FROM THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE STUDIED. WHAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST DO WITH THEM IS TO SEND THEM BACK. THEY ARE DRAFT BILLS WHICH THE CABINET HAS NOT ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE AND WHICH WILL BE NULLIFIED. AS FOR THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THEY WILL BE LEFT TO ACTION BY THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES APPOINTED?

NISSAI: ALL THE COMMITTEES END THEIR TERM ALONG WITH THE GOVERNMENT -- ANY OF THEM APPOINTED BY THE CABINET, INCLUDING POLITICAL POSITIONS SUCH AS MINE.

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT THE DUTY OF THOSE SAFEGUARDING PEACE AND ORDER?

NISSAI: THE DIRECTOR FOR PEACE AND ORDER IS UNLIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BECAUSE THIS POSITION IS NOT A POLITICAL ONE.

REPORTER: HE HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER...  
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PAGE 04 BANGKO 08294 02 OF 02 211610Z

NISSAI: I AM STILL IN DOUBT.

REPORTER: WHICH BILLS HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE?

NISSAI: THOSE BELONGING TO THE CABINET -- THOSE PROPOSED BY THE CABINET. MUCH IS TO BE SAID ABOUT SUCH BILLS. FOR INSTANCE, SOME BILLS PROPOSED BY ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND ACCEPTED FOR STUDY BY THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE SENT BACK.

REPORTER: HOW DO YOU FORESEE THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY?

NISSAI: IT IS STILL IN QUIET AND ORDER, EVERYONE HAVING CHEERFUL FACES.

REPORTER: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT HIS MAJESTY THE KING WILL GRANT THE RESIGNATION?

NISSAI: THE NEWS HAVING BEEN ANNOUNCED, IT IS BELIEVED THAT HIS MAJESTY THE KING WILL GRANT IT.

REPORTER: WHO PRESENTED THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION TO HIS MAJESTY?

NISSAI: AN OFFICIAL.

REPORTER: .....

NISSAI: EVERYTHING, EVERY MACHINE IS STILL AT WORK AS NORMAL. THE POSITIONS OF THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PEACE AND ORDER OF THE COUNTRY ARE NO PROBLEM. THE POLICE DIRECTOR-GENERAL IS THERE; THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMY IS THERE; THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE NAVY IS THERE; AND SO IS THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES. END QUOTE  
MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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